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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

4. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary over the entire length of a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

8. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

9. (previously presented) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

24. (currently amended) A process for producing a polypeptide wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of ~~comprising the amino acid sequence of~~ SEQ ID NO:2, the process comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide, thereby producing said polypeptide.

25. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (previously presented) The vector of claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

27. (currently amended) The vector of claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame

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such that a polypeptide comprising ~~SEQ ID NO:2~~ may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (previously presented) The vector of claim 27, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.

29. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

30. (previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, further comprising a heterologous nucleotide sequence.

31. (previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 30, wherein the heterologous nucleotide sequence encodes a heterologous polypeptide.